

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 26 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein;

Please amend claims 22, 27, 28, 38, 40 and 41; and

Please add new claims 43-46 as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

11. (Withdrawn) A method of coupling a device for automatically extracting a straw in a container to a cover, wherein the device includes a straw-supporting member that is adapted to be subjected to elastic deformation, the method comprising:

coupling together the cover and the device; and

causing the straw supporting member to move from a first position to a second position.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the causing comprises one of:

deflecting the straw supporting member; and

tensioning the straw supporting member.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the straw supporting member moves from the first position to the second position when the cover is one of, directly or indirectly, coupled to the device.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the straw supporting member comprises an elastically deformable retention arm that is adapted to be tensioned by elastic deformation.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14, wherein the elastically deformable retention arm includes a retention mechanism adapted to retain the straw.

16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, further comprising:
securing the straw to the straw-supporting member to thereby form an intermediate subassembly; and
coupling the intermediate subassembly to the cover to form a closure subassembly.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the securing comprises securing the straw to an elastically deformable retention arm of the straw-supporting member to thereby form an intermediate subassembly.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 16, further comprising:
filling a container with a desired beverage;
positioning the closure subassembly in the container; and
securing the cover on the container.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 18, wherein the securing of the cover comprises crimping the cover on the container.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the straw-supporting member comprises an elastically deformable retention arm having a projection and wherein the method further comprises:

engaging the cover with the projection,
whereby the elastically deformable retention arm is one of deflected or tensioned.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the straw-supporting member comprises an elastically deformable retention arm and wherein the method further comprises:

- engaging the cover with the straw,
- whereby the elastically deformable retention arm is one of deflected or tensioned.

22. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a straw comprising:

- a straw-supporting member having an elastically deformable retention arm which comprises a free end and at least another end;
- a body comprising a succession of deformable lips and one of a peripheral portion and an annular portion;
- the deformable lips being adapted to be peripherally sandwiched upon crimping of a cover onto a container;
- the at least another end of the elastically deformable retention arm being connected to the body; and
- the free end including a straw retaining mechanism,
- wherein the device is adapted to be coupled to a container

23. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a retaining tube portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw retaining mechanism is made as a single piece.

25. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 24, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises an injected plastic material.

Claim 26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim ~~26~~ 22, wherein the deformable lips are adapted to be peripherally sandwiched between a crimping groove and an upper peripheral rim of the container.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw retaining mechanism further comprises ~~a retention arm and~~ an actuation arm that is adapted to be actuated and displaced during an opening of the container.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 22, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a first and a second elastically deformable zone, the first elastically deformable zone enabling a retention arm to move in a first pivoting direction and the second

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elastically deformable zone enabling a retention arm to move in a second pivoting direction.

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29, wherein the first pivoting direction comprises movement about a vertical pivoting axis, and the second pivoting direction comprises movement about a horizontal pivoting axis.

31. (Withdrawn) A method of coupling a device for automatically extracting a straw to a cover, wherein the device includes a straw-supporting member that is adapted to be subjected to elastic deflection, the method comprising:

coupling together the cover and the device; and

causing the straw supporting member to move from a first position to a second position.

32. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the straw supporting member moves from the first position to the second position when the cover is coupled to the device.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the straw supporting member comprises an elastically deflecting retention arm.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, wherein the elastically deflecting retention arm includes a retention mechanism adapted to retain the straw.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 31, further comprising:
securing the straw to the straw-supporting member to thereby form an intermediate subassembly; and
coupling of the intermediate subassembly to the cover to form a closure subassembly.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, wherein the securing comprises securing the straw to an elastically deflecting retention arm of the straw-supporting member to thereby form an intermediate subassembly.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 35, further comprising:
filling a container with a desired beverage;
positioning the closure subassembly in the container; and
securing the cover on the container.

38. (Currently Amended) A device for extracting a straw comprising:
a straw-supporting member having an elastically deflectable retention arm which

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comprises a free end and at least another end;

a body comprising one of a peripheral portion and an annular portion;

the body being configured to be arranged between a cover and a container;

the at least another end of the elastically deformable retention arm being connected to the body; ~~and~~

the free end including a straw retaining mechanism; and

at least one of:

the body being a plastic body;

the body and the straw supporting member being a one-piece member; and

the body being securable to the container via the cover;

~~wherein the device is adapted to be coupled to at least one of the cover and a container.~~

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a retaining tube portion.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the body comprises a succession of deformable lips, whereby the deformable lips are adapted to be peripherally sandwiched upon crimping of a cover onto a container.

41. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw retaining mechanism further comprises ~~a retention arm and~~ an actuation arm that is adapted to be actuated and displaced during an opening of the container.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 38, wherein the straw retaining mechanism comprises a first and a second elastically deflectable zone, the first elastically deflectable zone enabling a retention arm to move in a first pivoting direction and the second elastically deflectable zone enabling a retention arm to move in a second pivoting direction.--

43. (New) The device of claim 38, wherein the body and the straw supporting member comprise a one-piece plastic member and wherein the body is securable to the container via the cover.

44. (New) A method of coupling the device for extracting a straw of claim 38 to the container using the cover, the method comprising:

arranging the device for extracting a straw on an open end of the container; and
securing the device for extracting the straw to the container using the cover.

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45. (New) The device of claim 22, wherein the body and the straw supporting member comprise a one-piece plastic member and wherein the body is securable to the container via the cover.

46. (New) A method of coupling the device for extracting a straw of claim 22 to the container using the cover, the method comprising:

arranging the device for extracting a straw on an open end of the container; and
securing the device for extracting the straw to the container by deforming the deformable lips;
positioning the cover over the device for extracting the straw; and
mounting the cover onto to the container.